

AMENDED CLAIMS

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36. (Amended) A method of negotiating an END between a seller and a buyer each possessing a tamper-resistant document carrier having its own public-secret key pair, in which the END is stored in the seller's document carrier in the form of END data, and the signature generated by the secret signing-key of a document carrier of the issuer of the END, together with a negotiability status flag indicative of whether the END is currently negotiable from the document carrier on which it is stored, comprising establishing mutual recognition and verification between the seller and buyer using one or more predetermined protocols between the respective document carriers; verifying in the seller's document carrier that the negotiability status flag is "negotiable" and aborting the negotiation if not; sending the public encryption key of the buyer's document carrier to the seller's document carrier, and using it to encrypt the message comprising the END together with the negotiability status flag; sending that encrypted message to the buyer; decrypting that message using the buyer's secret decryption key, and setting the negotiability status flag for that END of the buyer's and seller's document carriers respectively to "negotiable" and "non-negotiable".

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50. (Amended) A method according to Claim 48, in which the buyer's document carrier, after decrypting the message with its secret key, verifies that the END is still valid by taking its time stamp, and, if it has expired, informs the issuer of

this, and aborts the negotiation before incrementing the counter or setting the negotiation status flag.

B2
51. (Amended) A method according to Claim 49, in which the buyer's document carrier, after decrypting the message with its secret key, verifies that the END is still valid by taking its time stamp, and, if it has expired, informs the issuer of this, and aborts the negotiation before incrementing the counter or setting the negotiation status flag.
